



Immediate release
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Employee of Irish firm announced winner of Young International Freight Forwarder of the Year 2011



Figure 1 - (Left) Mr. Andrew Kemp of the TT Club (sponsor of the award), (Middle) Ms. Silvia Valles Barrera - winner of the 2011 YIFFA competition and (Right) Mr. Jean-Claude Delen - President of FIATA.

Ms. Silvia Valles Barrera, who achieved a distinction in the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding two years ago has gone on to win the overall winner award of the Young International Freight Forwarder of the Year competition for 2011. The prize was presented to Silvia at the international congress of FIATA in Cairo last week.

Earlier this year, she was announced the winner of the European sector of the award and was one of four finalists in competition for the ultimate award when she competed against the winners from the Africa & Middle East, Americas and Asia & Pacific regions.

Ms. Barrera, who is a native of Spain, is an employee of Hawthorn Logistics and is responsible for managing its clients' international forwarding arrangements

Hawthorn Logistics is one of Ireland's youngest but fastest growing freight forwarding companies providing global shipping to exporters and importers along with warehousing facilities and expertise for distributing product by courier, air, sea and road.

The awards competition, run by the International Freight Forwarders Association (FIATA), is open to candidates representing the countries and national freight associations in four geographical regions of the world.

Ms. Barrera achieved distinction level in the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding in 2010. The internationally recognized diploma course is validated by FIATA and delivered by the Irish International Freight Association.

“Silvia has done our association proud by winning this prestigious competition against competitors from the four corners of the world and we congratulate her and her employer Hawthorn Logistics on this marvelous outcome” said Mr. Colm Walsh CEO of the Irish International Freight Association at the presentation of the award at the FIATA Congress in Cairo.

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About the IIFA

The IIFA is the sole representative body and official voice of the freight forwarding sector in Ireland. Established in 1962, it currently has 100 members who collectively employ more than 3,000 people and handle more than 90% of Ireland’s €148 billion international merchandise trade.

Through its membership of the Customs Consultative Committee (CCC) and Trade Facilitation Ireland (TFI) the association participates in discussions on local issues affecting international trade. Representation at international level is conducted through IIFA’s membership of FIATA.

The association’s overall aim is to ensure that the concerns of members and their clients are heard and acted upon, thus ensuring that the flow of physical trade between Ireland and the rest of the world is as efficient and cost-effective as possible.

For more information please see www.iifa.ie